

Message Text

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46

ACTION HEW-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3056

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN ELAB ECRP UR

SUBJ: SOCIAL SECURITY: SOVIETS ANNOUNCE NEW ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN
OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

REF: DEPT A-7119, 9/13/74

1. PRAVDA, SEPT 27, CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT NEW DIRECTIVES BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PARTY AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PROVIDING GRANTS TO CHILDREN OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. GRANTS OF 12 RUBLES (DOLS 15.84) PER MONTH WILL BE PAID FOR EACH CHILD UNDER AGE OF EIGHT YEARS IN FAMILIES WHERE JOINT INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED AN AVERAGE OF 50 RUBLES (DOLS 66.02) PER FAMILY MEMBER. FOLLOWING WILL BE INCLUDED IN "JOINT INCOME:" WAGES, BONUSES, PAY FOR COLLECTIVE FARM WORK, PENSIONS, STIPENDS AND OTHER MONETARY ALLOWANCES, INCOME FROM HOUSEHOLD PLOTS.

2. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES FOR ACTIVELY EMPLOYED PERSONS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH MOTHER'S PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT (OR STUDY) WHILE SOCIAL SECURITY ORGANS WILL HANDLE PROCESSING OF UNEMPLOYED PENSIONERS. SPECIFIC NOTE IS MADE THAT EXISTING LAW ON ALLOWANCES FOR UNWED MOTHERS AND MOTHERS OF SEVERAL CHILDREN (DECREE OF PRESIDIUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF JULY 8, 1944) WILL REMAIN IN
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EFFECT. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA ARTICLE, TOTAL OF 1.8 BILLION

RUBLES (DOLS 2.4 BILLION) PER YEAR WILL BE EXPENDED ON THE NEW PROGRAM WHICH ENTERS INTO FORCE NOVEMBER 1, 1974.

3. COMMENT: OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS FIGURE GIVEN FOR ANNUAL EXPENDITURES. IF ACCURATE, IT WOULD INDICATED THAT SOME 12.5 MILLION CHILDREN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR NEW ALLOWANCES, WHICH EQUATES TO ABOUT FIVE PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION OR ROGHLY 25 PERCENT OF ALL CHILDREN UNDER EIGHT YEARS OF AGE. (LATEST CENSUS FIGURES OF 1970 SHOW 45 MILLION CHILDREN AGES 0 THROUGH 9 YEARS.) WHILE SOVIET DECISION TO PUBLICIZE THIS NEW PROGRAM IS PROBABLY BASED ON DESIRE TO SHOW THAT STATE IS TAKING CARE OF THE NEEDY, REVELATION OF THE FIGURE FOR TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF PROGRAM MAY HAVE UNINTENTIONALLY REVEALED SIZE OF THIS LATTER GROUP. EMBASSY WILL TRY OBTAIN COPIES OF NEW REGULATIONS IF AVAILABLE AND FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT.
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